

367BC - 300BC

The combination of desire for high office and equality with patricians among the richer plebeians, and desire for land among the poor, was a powerful one, and led to many riots. Elections were postponed. CAMILLUS was appointed dictator. At last LICINIUS & SEXTIUS, the tribunes of 367 B.C., reached a compromise settlement with the patricians. The fundamental laws that bore their names provided that (1) in future not more than 500 JUV. ERA of public land (about 300 acres) might be leased

to any one man (unless he were the father of two children, in which case he might have 1,000 jugera), and no person might pasture over 100 cattle or 500 sheep on the public land; (2) debtors be permitted to deduct from the principal all interest previously paid, and have 3 yrs. to pay up; and (3) at least one of the Censors should always be a plebeian. At the same time, the work of government had grown so arduous that the Censors had to be further relieved. The census had already taken some of the work. Now judicial powers were given to two praetors; and the management of municipal affairs, such as food-supply regulations and upkeep of temples and public festivals, was given to two curule aediles. At first these offices were open to patricians only, but it was not long before plebeians were admitted. About (300 B.C.) they were admitted to the priesthood, the last stronghold of patrician monopoly.